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Notes on SELF-SUPPORTING DISPENSARIES, with some Statistics of the Coventry Provident Dispensary. Communicated by CHARLES H. BRACEBRIDGE, ESQ., Atherstone Hall, Warwickshire.

[Read before Section (F,) Economic Science and Statistics, of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, at Leeds, the 28th September, 1858.]

IN offering the Statistics of the self-supporting Dispensary at Coventry to this Section, I do it as an example of those institutions projected by Mr. H. L. Smith, of Southam, Warwickshire, which when supported by a sufficient number of members, have been successful. The Statistics of that at Northampton are fully as favourable, though not carried over so long a period; this latter having been instituted in 1845, and the former in 1831.* The Queen's visit to Warwick gave occasion to the formation of a Central Society for the promulgation of the principle, to whom application might be made for information as to rules, books, and other details, by the possession of which the founders might proceed safely, and without danger of failing in their objects, provided always the one necessity of all insurance against risks, sufficient numbers, be supplied. This little Society was founded at Warwick in July last (1858), the Lord Lieutenant, the High Sheriff, Lord Warwick, Lord Willoughby, and several magistrates and gentlemen of the county, as well as two or three gentlemen from Coventry and Northampton, being present, and vouching for the working of the Coventry and Northampton Dispensaries for more than twenty years. To this Society the following towns have already applied for information:—Bath, Bradford, Conway, Hereford, Southend, and Tadcaster. It is called the "Society for promoting the principles of Royal Victoria Self-supporting Dispensaries." Honorary Secretary—H. S. Smith, Esq., Southam; Bankers—Messrs. Greaves, Greenway, and Smith, Warwick; Committee meets at the Warwick Arms, at Warwick.

* The following are the statistics for 1857 of the Dispensaries at Coventry and Northampton:—

Place.	Members.	Cases Attended.	Midwifery Cases.	Paid for Drugs.	Paid to Medical Men.	Paid by Free Fund.
Coventry (founded 1832)}	No. 4,500	No. 2,927	No. 48	£ 251	£ 491	£ 749
Northampton (founded 1845)}	5,429*	14,960	222	166	578	751

* In 1851.

The advantages to members are, that the Dispensaries are founded on the principle of Provident Insurance. Practice is afforded to medical men, and emulation excited. Many cases, no doubt, are brought under their notice which would otherwise have been neglected, till too late for remedies to be applied ; to say nothing of the great facilities afforded by these institutions for obtaining statistics of disease, and of their tendency to promote sanitary improvements.

Clubs can be taken in *en masse*, and Cholera cases are attended gratis. The payments to medical men, when divided by the number of cases appear to be about 1s. at Northampton, but are considerably higher, about 3s. 4d., at Coventry ; the other expenses are salaries to Dispenser and a boy, and the purchase of drugs, leeches, and instruments. The variation arises from calculating attendance on *every child* in one instance and not in the other. In each case the medical men have divided 750*l.*, [Coventry 1*l.* less, Northampton 1*l.* more,] and are satisfied. The number of visits made at patients' abodes in severe cases is not mentioned.

At Coventry each family selects its medical man for the year ; so that it becomes unnecessary to enter every slight case among the children for a proportional division among the medical men at the end of the year.

COVENTRY PROVIDENT DISPENSARY.—*Twenty-seven*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Years beginning 25th March.	Number of New Members, including Col. 3.	Members Admitted when Sick by Payment of 10s. for 8 Months' Attendance.	Cases of Sickness.	Cases Visited at Home, exclusive of Col. 6.	Midwifery Cases.	Deaths.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1831.....	....	....	1,500	....	10	19
32.....	....	....	2,437	....	55	30
33.....	....	....	1,668	....	52	20
34.....	....	....	1,624	778	47	27
35.....	....	....	1,500	....	41	17
1836.....	....	....	1,610	....	53	28
37.....	....	....	1,382	....	31	26
38.....	....	....	1,638	....	48	34
39.....	....	....	1,921	....	39	39
40.....	....	....	2,001	....	51	37
1841.....	....	....	} 3,543	....	79	57 {
42.....	....	....		....	61	22
43.....	....	....		550	61	39
44.....	....	....		400	67	33
45.....	....	....		....	....	....
1846.....	....	....	2,193	....	50	27
47.....	....	....	2,044	....	50	35
48.....	....	....	1,878	....	30	35
49.....	....	....	2,060	....	....	49
50.....	....	....	1,795	....	....	39
1851.....	....	....	1,664	....	52	32
52.....	....	....	1,788	....	....	28
53.....	930	100	1,912	549	28	28
54.....	1,104	150	2,287	720	35	35
55.....	757	115	2,445	816	29	57
1856.....	883	122	2,654	643	25	64
57.....	685	134	2,927	852	48	53

Note.—From 1831 to 1852 there were two Surgeons; after that three Surgeons and
The average number of Free Members on the books is about 3,000; it was limited,

Years, 1831-57. *Statistical Analysis of the Reports.*

8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Income.			Expenditure.				
Subscriptions and Donations. Interest of Funded Property.	Payments of Ordinary (Free) Members.	Total Income.	Paid to Medical Officers.	Salaries to Dispenser and Boy. Instruments.	Purchase of House, Rent, Rates, Repairs, &c.	Drugs and Leeches.	Total Expenditure.
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
329	126	455	81	67	27	46	221
140	366	506	263	77	31	103	474
144	401	545	268	73	25	113	479
118	416	534	287	67	43	89	486
128	397	525	262	72	27	95	456
107	392	499	262	74	22	90	448
138	339	477	245	72	21	54	392
88	426	514	287	69	23	99	478
86	429	515	305	69	24	84	482
92	437	529	287	61	21	110	479
74	418	492	269	63	245	108	685
306	384	690	273	61	450	71	855
121	409	530	266	61	12	81	420
109	445	554	289	67	15	106	477
87	451	538	293	64	10	105	472
74	435	509	283	61	9	75	428
78	411	489	270	61	9	76	416
71	377	448	245	61	12	75	393
69	348	417	226	62	8	86	382
62	375	437	252	61	15	74	402
72	335	407	223	72	10	79	384
62	345	407	243	77	8	59	387
63	431	494	288	71	7	92	458
64	510	574	340	79	10	119	548
66	564	630	376	79	26	133	614
64	647	711	431	92	15	132	670
66	749	815	492	97	10	151	750

one Consulting Physician.

at first, to 2,500; it is now about 4,500, many of whom are children.